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# Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2266

June 12, 1986

## LYNG TO EUROPE

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng is traveling to Europe in mid-June to discuss trade and related issues with agricultural leaders from other countries. On June 18, Lyng will address the 12th ministerial session of the World Food Council in Rome. On June 20, Lyng will address the Cocal Conference in Munich. On June 23, he'll meet informally with European Economic Community agricultural ministers in Luxembourg.

## VISIT TO USSR

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced that a three-member U.S. team will visit the Soviet on June 19-28 to study the country's winter grains industry. The visit is part of the U.S. - USSR agreement on cooperation in the field of agriculture. A Soviet team will visit the U.S. in July to study the economics of producing grain in arid areas.

## STATEMENT BY LYNG & WISE

The following is part of a joint statement issued on June 10 by Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng and Canadian Minister of Agriculture John Wise. "It is important to move rapidly into a new round of trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and this new round must treat agricultural issues as a priority. ...We have agreed to meet again later this year in Ottawa."

## CHERNOBYL AFTERMATH

Since the accident at Chernobyl, there's been little or no agriculture activity within a 30-kilometer radius around the site. In the exposed areas, the greatest impact on Soviet agriculture appears to be in the livestock sector, primarily milk and forage used to feed livestock...and vegetable and fruit production. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Soviets have indicated that slaughtering of livestock near the reactor has already taken place and monitoring of dairy products will continue for the near future.

## WORLD COARSE GRAINS PROD.

The world production of coarse grains for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 814.8 million tons, down 4.2 million or less than 1 pct. from last month and down 3 pct. from the record 1985/86 crop. The European Community production is estimated at 83.6 million tons, down 2.5 million from last month. USSR coarse grains production is estimated at 96 million tons, down 2 million from last month, but 2 pct. above last year. East Europe production is estimated at 68.9 million tons, up 200,000 from last month.

USSR CROP EST. DOWN	The estimate of the 1986 Soviet grain crop was reduced 5 million tons to 185 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Continued hot, dry weather over important grain areas reduced yield potential for the grain crops. Winter wheat production was reduced 2 million tons to 38 million. Spring barley production was lowered 2 million tons to 44 million. Spring wheat output was reduced one million tons to 39 million.
USSR IMPORTS FOR 1986/87	Soviet grain buying activity for the 1986/87 marketing year has been slow to develop with purchases to date estimated to total less than 2 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This compares with projected 1986/87 imports of 32 million tons, including 17 million tons of wheat, 14 million tons of coarse grains, and one million tons of rice, pulses and miscellaneous grains. The estimate of wheat and coarse grain imports were increased by a million tons each from last month's projection. The Soviets may continue to delay purchases in anticipation of further international grain market adjustments to the new U.S. farm programs.
USSR IMPORT EST. FOR 1985/86	During the past month, USSR grain buyers added modestly to purchases for delivery in 1985/86, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The U.S. and Argentina indicated some corn sales while the European Community continued to report small sales of both wheat and barley. With total commitments placed at over 27 million tons, the USSR appears to have basically covered 1985/86 import requirements.
USSR WHEAT SUPPLIES OFF	Soviet wheat supplies in 1986/87 are projected to total only around 93 million tons, the smallest in 11 years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Despite prospects for a reduced wheat harvest, the USSR is not expected to significantly increase wheat imports. An estimated 33 million tons of wheat will be fed, the least since 1976/77. Coarse grain supplies in 1986/87 are estimated at 110 million tons.
WHEAT - 1985/86	World production of wheat for 1985/86 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 502.1 million tons, down 1.1 million or less than 1 pct. from last month and down 3 pct. from 1984/85, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Downward revisions were made for China, Australia and Eastern Europe.
WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION: 1986/87	The world production of wheat for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 504.4 million tons, down 6 million or less than 1 pct. from last month, but up less than 1 pct. from the 1985/86 harvest. U.S. production is estimated at 58.6 million tons, down 700,000 tons or 1 pct. from last month and down 11 pct. from last year's harvest. The decline is attributed to reduced winter wheat yields. USSR wheat production is estimated at 77 million tons, down 3 million or 4 pct. from last month and 8 pct. from last year. European Community production is est. at 75.4 million tons, down 1.8 million or 2 pct. from last month, but up 5 pct. from 1985. China wheat production is est. at 87.5 million tons, down 1 million or 1 pct. from last month but up 3 pct. from 1985. East Europe wheat production is estimated at 38.6 million tons, down 300,000 tons or 1 pct. from last month, but up 3 pct. from the 1985 crop.

FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

U.S. WEATHER UPDATE...The planting season is just about over in many areas of the U.S. and farmers are closely monitoring future weather patterns for crop development. USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen gives the current weather update for the U.S. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (206)

GRASSHOPPER CONTROL PROGRAM...Farmers who last year saw their crops devoured by grasshoppers will get some relief with a "good neighbor" policy adopted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Don Husnik with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, describes the good neighbor policy for grasshopper control. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (207)

WESTERN HEMISPHERE UPDATE...U.S. agricultural exports last year to nations of the Western Hemisphere totaled \$6 billion, accounting for 20 pct. of total exports, and registering a 13 pct. decline. USDA economist John Link examines the situation and outlook for the Western Hemisphere. Vic Powell interviews. (208)

SOUTHEAST ASIA...Southeast Asia has been a good market for U.S. exports, but last year the region's economy performed poorly due to slower growth in the U.S. and of world trade in general. USDA economist Albert Evans talks about factors contributing to this situation. Vic Powell interviews. (209)

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL...Heifer Project International (HPI) is a non-profit organization that has received a lot of attention for its outstanding work in volunteerism for world hunger. John Dieterly, mid-Atlantic regional director, talks about HPI and its involvement with USDA's Dairy Termination Program. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (210)



FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1515...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Jim Johnson looks at efforts by the USDA to use employee ideas to increase efficiency and save your tax money.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1504...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Common program provisions for 1987 crops; The 1987 wheat program; Importing grain; Continued large supplies.

CONSUMER TIME #997...(Weekly reel of news features) Three nice dogwood varieties; Selecting luggage; An energy consciousness; The National Country Garden; Clothes labels have good info.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, June 18, Dairy outlook; Thurs, June 19, Tobacco outlook; Fri, June 20, Catfish production, World ag. outlook; Mon, June 23, Hogs and pigs report, Livestock slaughter; Tues, Poultry production, Crop and weather update; Wed, June 25, China ag. outlook. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.



OFF MIKE

NAFB president Ken Root (KWCH-TV/KBS, Hutchinson, Kans) was in town briefly at the conclusion of the U.S. Feedgrains European trip. And he's about to head out again, this time on the Soviet Union summer tour ... Speaking of travel, Hugh Robinson (KKOW, Pittsburg, Kans) is back from 3 weeks in China. His impression: Millions of people and most doing manual labor of some kind. He also said his wife won't be cooking Chinese meals for awhile, even though she took classes to learn how, because, "I've had enough to last me for awhile" ... We hear about a lot of different kinds of promotions farm broadcasters conduct, and there's an interesting variety. Don Wick (KGLR, Redwood Falls, Minn) reports his station's Farm Forty Free event was a great success. And NAFB "Chat"s editor Bob Quinn (WHO, Des Moines, Iowa) reports on similar types of promotions in the latest issue of "Chats." Sharing ideas in this column or in "Chats" is the name of the game, so if you have something others might enjoying knowing about, let us know ... Don also reports his wife Kolleen presented him with a second son following a Future Farmers of America banquet they both attended. Sounds like close timing ... Newest newsletter to hit our desk came from Doug Rubush. He's the new farm broadcaster at WSVB in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He replaced Homer Quann who retired recently ... We just finished a party here in the office for Jim Proctor on the occasion of his disability retirement (he suffered a stroke last October but is doing pretty good now). Jim was a member of radio tape duplication and mailing crew ... Two catch up items from the Western NAFB regional meeting: Terri-Rae Elmer (KFBK, Sacramento, Calif) was delayed in her flight to Spokane. The plane she was in blew a tire as it headed down the runway in San Francisco and barely stopped before reaching the end of the runway...and the Bay. And Jaime Kaestner (National Cattlemen's Assn., Englewood, Colo) lost her luggage getting to Spokane...and it's still lost!

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